

ACES Program Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Does the program cost?**
 - The answer is “it depends”– We are grant funded and our funding is different every year. This year the program enrollment fee is \$250.00, which includes supplies for all workshops and trainings. Out of town trips will have additional costs to offset travel expenses such as hotels and meals. However, we don’t want that to keep people from applying so we have payment plans and need-based scholarships available.
- **When should students start and complete the program (what grade or age?)**
 - Ideally students should start either their sophomore or junior year in high school, to get the greatest benefits of the 2-3 year program. IE- apply in the spring of their freshmen or sophomore year and start their sophomore or junior fall semester. However, all students can gain benefits from the program and college students may apply as well.
 - If the student will be graduating from high school during the program, should they still apply? YES! We have 7 AHEC offices throughout the state so if you start in Springfield or Joplin and end up going to college in KC, you can still complete the ACES Program. We have several students that start in high school and finish during their first or second year of college.
- **How firm is the GPA requirement?**
 - We strongly prefer students with strong academic records and at least a 3.0 GPA. The main reason being that health professions are competitive and only those who work hard in school tend to succeed. However, we understand that people make mistakes and don’t always take school seriously (especially their freshmen year) so we will consider students with a close to 3.0 GPA on a case by case basis with good recommendations.
- **What are the essay requirements?**
 - We are not English/Language instructors; however, please have someone read over your work for misspellings, typos, grammatical errors, etc. We are trying to find out what makes you as an individual interested in pursuing a health career. Please don’t say because I’ll make lots of money! We are looking for students that understand why it’s important to help people be healthy individuals.
- **What kind of time commitment is it/how many workshops must they attend?**
 - We offer 12-24 workshops per year- they are required to attend at least 8 per year. A few specific ones are required, but for the most part, they choose the ones that interest them.
- **What if I play a sport/am in band/choir/etc?** Most students have no trouble planning their schedules around ACES events. If you have to miss a required workshop, there are options to make up the topic online at a later date. ACES also runs year round so you can join us for electives over the summer semester, as well!

Still have questions? Feel free to contact us anytime!

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